

## Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 CIEP-01

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 EA-06

INT-05 FEA-01 /106 W

----- 036342

R 151255Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1554

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, IR

SUBJ: EC/IRAN- SOAMES VISIT TO TEHRAN

REF: EC BRUSSELS 3828

1. SUMMARY: SOAMES VISIT TO IRAN RESULTED IN ANNOUNCEMENT  
OF GOI AGREEMENT TO HOLD PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH THE EEC TO  
EXPLORE ITS REQUEST FOR FORMAL NEGOTIATION OF AN EC/IRAN  
PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

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2. MAY 13-14 TALKS BETWEEN EC VICE PRESIDENT SIR CHRISTOPHER  
SOAMES AND GOI OFFICIAL ENDED OFFICIALLY WITH LATE  
AFTERNOON PRESS CONFERENCE ON MAY 14 HELD JOINTLY WITH GOI  
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE HUSHANG ANSARY. PRESS

CONFERENCE STARTED WITH ANSARY DISTRIBUTING TO ASSEMBLED NEWS-  
MEN HIS STATEMENT OUTLINING THE IRANIAN POSITION ON A PREFER-  
ENTIAL AGREEMENT WITH THE EEC. STATEMENT EXPLAINS RAPID  
INCREASE IN IRAN'S IMPORTS FROM THE EEC AREA WHICH ARE PREDICTED  
TO REACH \$16 BILLION ANNUALLY WITHIN 10 YEARS. PARAGRAPHS  
FROM ANSARY'S STATEMENT REITERATING THE IRANIAN POSITION ON THE  
PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT FOLLOW:

"WE EXPLAINED THAT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE GOVERNMENT OF  
IRAN CONTINUES TO FEEL THAT THE CONCLUSION OF A PREFERENTIAL  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN IRAN AND THE EEC IS THE BEST WAY TO MAIN-  
TAIN AND FURTHER EXPAND THE PRESENT IMPRESSIVE SCOPE OF TRADE  
AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. THIS, WE FEEL,  
MUST BE A NATURAL OUTCOME OF THE TRADITIONALLY CLOSE RELATION-  
SHIP BETWEEN IRAN AND THE EEC SINCE IT WOULD BE HARD, IF NOT  
IMPOSSIBLE, TO FIND AS IMPRESSIVE A RECORD OF THE DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE EEC'S RELATIONS WITH ANY OF ITS OTHER TRADING PARTNERS  
AS THAT WITH IRAN. WE FEEL THAT ANY OTHER ARRANGEMENT  
WOULD PLACE IRAN IN A LESS FAVORABLE POSITION COMPARED  
WITH HER COMPETITORS.

"SIR CHRISTOPHER HAS INFORMED ME THAT WHILE HE HAS FULLY  
NOTED THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN WITH REGARD  
TO THE NEED FOR THE CONCLUSION OF A PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT,  
HE FEELS THAT THERE ARE WAYS BY WHICH IRAN'S MAJOR OBJEC-  
TIVES CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT RECOURSE TO PREFERENTIAL  
ARRANGEMENTS. HE HAS THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT WE JOINTLY  
UNDERTAKE AT EXPERT LEVEL AN EXERCISE TO DETERMINE IF THE  
SAID OBJECTIVES CAN BE MET SATISFACTORILY BY MEANS OF  
THE PROPOSALS THAT HE FEELS THE COMMUNITY CAN PLACE BEFORE IRAN.

" WITH CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS WILL IN NO WAY AFFECT  
IRAN'S REQUIREMENT OF A PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT, WE HAVE  
SAID THAT WE WOULD BE READY TO COOPERATE IN SUCH AN EXERCISE."

3. ACCORDING TO LOCAL NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT ERIC PACE,  
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WHO WAS PRESENT AT PRESS CONFERENCE, SOAMES FIELDDED MOST OF  
NEWSMEN'S QUESTIONS. REFERRING TO EXPERT LEVEL MEETING  
MENTIONED IN ANSARY'S STATEMENT, HE SAID THESE "EXPLORA-  
TORY DISCUSSIONS," TO BEGIN AT AN UNSPECIFIED DATE DURING THE  
SUMMER, WOULD INQUIRE INTO WHAT THE "NATURE OF AN AGREEMENT  
WOULD BE." SOAMES AT ONE POINT REFERRED TO "THE PRIVILEGED  
POSITION WHICH WE IN THE COMMUNITY THINK IRAN SHOULD HAVE,"  
BUT PACE WAID HE PLAINLY STATED HE FELT THE EEC "COULD PUT  
FORWARD IDEAS SUBSTANTIALLY MEETING THE NEEDS OF IRAN WITHOUT  
CONCLUDING A PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT."

4. BRITISH EMBASSY COUNSELOR ROBERT ALSTON SAID TALKS HAD  
GONE "PRETTY MUCH AS EXPECTED BY SOAMES." HE ADDED THAT HE

IS CERTAIN THAT THE U.S. POSITION IN OBJECTING TO THE EC/IRAN PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENT HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY EXPLAINED TO THE IRANIANS. HE ALSO STATED THE EXPLORATORY TALKS PROBABLY WILL BE HELD AT A "LEISURELY PACE." OFFICIAL IN MINISTRY ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE TOLD ECON COUNSELOR THAT THE TALKS, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS AT THE EXPERT LEVEL, WOULD BEGIN MOST PROBABLY IN BRUSSELS THIS SUMMER AND END BY AUTUMN. IN RECAPITULATING IRAN'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE EC, HE EXHIBITED NO PARTICULAR RANCOR THAT IRAN HAD NOT GOTTEN WHAT IT WANTED IN THIS OUTING, BUT MADE IT CLEAR THAT IRAN WOULD PERSEVERE UNTIL SOME "MUTUALLY AGREEABLE" DECISION IS REACHED.

5. COMMENT: THE GOI CLEARLY REMAINS TO BE CONVINCED THAT ITS DEMANDS CAN BE MET BY SOMETHING SHORT OF THE PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT IT IS SEEKING.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MFN, VISITS, FOREIGN TRADE, NEGOTIATIONS, GENERALIZED PREFERENCES (TARIFFS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975TEHRAN04597  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 NA  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D750171-0848  
**From:** TEHRAN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t197505100/baaaaehs.tel  
**Line Count:** 127  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 APR 2003 by lzenbel0>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** ETRD, IR, EEC, (SOAMES, CHRISTOPHER)  
**To:** STATE INFO BONN  
BRUSSELS  
COPENHAGEN  
DUBLIN  
THE HAGUE  
LONDON

LUXEMBOURG  
PARIS  
ROME  
EC BRUSSELS  
OECD PARIS

**Type:** TE

**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006